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PH-TERRORISTS 8-26

CIA REPORTEDLY LINKED TO LIBYAN INFILTRATION FORCE
NEW YORK (UPI) -- A GREEN BERET SERGEANT AND NINE FORMER MEMBERS
OF THE ARMY'S ELITE COMMANDO TROOP, THINKING THEY WERE ON A
CIA-APPROVED MISSION, TRAINED LIBYAN TERRORISTS FOUR YEARS AGO, THE
NEW YORK TIMES SAID TODAY.

RANKING GREEN BERET OFFICERS ALSO THOUGHT THE TRAINING PROGRAM WAS
AN INFILTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COL. MUHAMMAR KHADAFY. THE CIA
DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN THE MISSION, ALTHOUGH THE TIMES SAID
PARTICIPANTS AND FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS SAY IT HAD AT LEAST TACIT CIA
APPROVAL.

EDWIN P. WILSON, A FORMER CIA AGENT, ORGANIZED AND FINANCED THE
OPERATION, THE NEWSPAPER SAID. WILSON WAS INDICTED IN 1980 IN LOS
ANGELES FOR ILLEGALLY EXPORTING EXPLOSIVES TO LIBYA AND IS BELIEVED
TO BE LIVING IN TRIPOLI.

THE OPERATION BEGAN IN JULY 1977 WHEN A MAN IDENTIFIED AS PATRY
LOONIS, WHO SAID HE WAS A CIA AGENT, CONTACTED LUKE F. THOMPSON, THEN
A GREEN BERET MASTER SERGEANT AT FORT BRAGG, N.C., THE TIMES SAID.
THOMPSON SAID HE REPORTED THE CONTACT TO MILITARY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
OFFICERS.

"I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING SUBVERSIVE, YOU KNOW, 'MAYBE A'
FOREIGN POWER TRYING TO LURE US INTO SOMETHING," HE SAID.

UNDER COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OFFICERS' ORDERS, THOMPSON CONTINUED
TALKING WITH LOONIS, WHO HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM THE CIA FOR HELPING
WILSON OBTAIN EXPLOSIVES TIMERS FOR LIBYA. LATER, THOMPSON SAID, THE
INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS GAVE HIM THE GO-AHEAD.

"THEY SAID: 'WE'VE CHECKED THIS TO THE TOP AND IT'S LEGAL AND
ABOVEBOARD. YOU CAN PURSUE IT AS YOU DESIRE,'" HE SAID.